

Tom Oosterhoudt, will be manning the emergency operations center tonight from 10 to midnight when the winds of Hurricane Ivan will be whipping by Key West.

The Florida Keys, as all of us know, are the southern-most point of Florida. Their abundance of nature and beaches, fishing, and coral make them one of the largest destinations for tourists, and they come from every corner of the globe to bask in the year-round beach weather. Conservationists and nature lovers come to enjoy the many birds and plant species that are found in no other place.

However, because of these three hurricanes that have threatened to strike, the Florida Keys have been evacuated at various times in these weeks. And for an economy that is heavily dependent on tourism, these hurricanes have been economically devastating.

My district office staff helped out today at Florida International University, the shelter for the Monroe County residents who had to evacuate their lovely keys. This week alone Key West lost 20 to \$30 million in lost sales tax revenues. This is just in 1 week.

So I call on all Americans to plan a visit once again to the Florida Keys now that the hurricanes have almost passed. I invite them to discover the beauty and the wonder that Hemingway and President Truman fell in love with and which encouraged them to make the Florida Keys one of their homes. Come to our beaches, swim in our coral reef, fish in our waters, enjoy the sun; and while there, of course, a mandatory visit to a bar in Key West; swim in Sombrero Beach in Marathon, and ride a jet ski in Key Largo.

As the Florida Keys representative in Congress, I welcome people to come and visit the Florida Keys and all of south Florida once again, and they will see why I am so proud to represent such a beautiful and diverse place.

#### H. RES. 717, RECOGNIZING 58TH BIRTHDAY OF WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KLINE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CORRINE BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the resolution to honor the 58th birthday of the 42nd President of the United States, William Jefferson Clinton.

I came to Washington the same year that the President did. We both were elected in 1992 and took office in 1993. Those 8 years were the best anyone could imagine. Under his leadership, the United States ran a budget surplus for the first time since Lyndon Baines Johnson's administration. The economy had its highest productivity level in decades, and nothing has been seen recently that even remotely compares to this.

This President had the leadership to push through Congress an assault

weapons ban that stopped dangerous and unnecessary automatic and semi-automatic guns from our neighborhoods. Rather than leaving important policy decisions to others, he took the lead in some unpopular positions to place this country in a position to lead the world. Under the Presidency of Mr. Clinton, our country achieved new heights of respect.

I wish former President Clinton my best wishes on a speedy and successful recovery.

Once again I want to wish a happy birthday to William Jefferson Clinton. I speak for my constituents and many millions of Americans in expressing my gratitude. We thank him once again for his leadership of service, and this country truly misses him.

#### HONORING LU PALMER AS A FORCE IN COMMUNITY LIFE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Mr. Lutrell "Lu" Palmer, a noted and respected Chicago leader and national leader. I am saddened to announce that Lu Palmer has been called to glory by our God in Heaven. He made his transition early Sunday morning at his home.

Lu Palmer's life was a life of courage, commitment, and compassion. His extraordinary sacrifices made on behalf of the voiceless, the disinherited, and the disadvantaged are legendary. Lu Palmer sacrificed a successful career as a columnist for the Chicago Sun Times because he would not compromise his principles and write what the editors wanted. He resigned rather than cave in to those who tried to silence and censor his voice.

Mr. Palmer's radio commentaries on WVON entitled "Lu's Notebook" were heard on radio each and every day. And again, although his commentaries were very popular and eagerly anticipated by thousands of listeners, his sponsors tried to again silence his voice by withdrawing their sponsorship, thereby removing his "Lu's Notebook" from the radio waves. Lu Palmer remained steadfast. Lu Palmer still would not be silenced.

Mr. Palmer's community activism created a campaign which ultimately elected Harold Washington as the first black mayor of the city of Chicago. His "We shall see in '83" motivated a movement the likes of which were and still are unprecedented.

Mr. Speaker, it is exceedingly difficult, if not impossible, to capture Lu Palmer's life in the brief time that I have. The impact that Lu Palmer has made on the local and national arena will require much more than what is encapsulated here. All over the country, Lu Palmer has conducted seminars and has participated in workshops where his expertise and his messages have been that of imparting valuable

information and providing direction for untold masses of people from Boston to Marquette University, to Carlton and St. Olaf's College, to Valparaiso, to Missouri and Colorado and Mississippi and Georgia, and to countless other States and college campuses and meeting halls. He transmitted a powerful image to and for the enrichment and uplifting of African Americans.

In Chicago, alone, Lu Palmer led such fights as the removal of asbestos from Chicago public schools and the fight against the wrongful draft of African Americans in the armed services. Behind the scenes, he helped in the mobilization to unseat the notorious Edward Hanrahan as Cook County state's attorney after the murders of Fred Hampton and Mark Clark of the Illinois chapter of the Black Panther Party, and he also provided assistance in the mobilization against police brutality in the 1970s.

Lu Palmer also provided vital research to the groups that fought overcrowding of schools in African American neighborhoods and did the same for groups that coalesced to have the first African American selected as the superintendent of the Chicago School Board. This group ultimately became CBUC, Chicago Black United Communities.

In 1981, the organization launched a historical march toward a black mayor, and it was very successful. It was Lu Palmer who solidified Kwanzaa as an African American observance. On his above-mentioned radio program, he presented the 12 principles of Nguzo Saba on a daily basis, to the extent that listeners began to understand, absorb, and seek more clarity and participation in the African-based cultural rhythms.

Thousands and thousands read Lu Palmer's articles and columns in mass media newspapers, but even more heard his insightful and incisive commentaries on "Lu's Notebook."

Mr. Speaker, Lu Palmer made his transition. We have lost a giant. And, Mr. Speaker, my condolences and the condolences of my family are extended to Georgia Palmer and to her entire family. We mourn the loss of Lutrell "Lu" Palmer. We will miss him.

Carry on, brother. God bless.

#### THE ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in 1994 Congress passed the Federal Assault Weapons Ban as part of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994. The law banned the sale to civilians of 19 types of semiautomatic weapons, but many manufacturers have been able to skirt the prohibition by offering knock-off models. Domestic gun manufacturers were required to stop production of semi-automatic assault weapons and ammunition clips that hold more than 10 rounds, except for military or police use.